Getting started with IANKEY on your AMSTRAD PCW/CPC

Read these instructions first. They are more specific to your type of computer, and so may differ in some details from the How-to-Card. If they do do differ, then these are the ones to follow.

In the instructions that follow, you type everything we have underlined. Include all spaces and punctuation marks, but add nothing. The computer does not care at this stage whether you use upper or lower case for letters of the alphabet (but it will do in the exercises in IANKEY itself).

When you see ⏎ it means 'and press the Return key'. This is a large key towards the right of the keyboard; it may be labeled RETURN, or ENTER or marked with an arrow ⏎.

Warranty

In addition to your normal statutory rights, copies of IANKEY bought direct from IANSYST are warranted unconditionally to reach your satisfaction.

If you believe that the program does not come up to the advertised standards and so do not wish to keep it, return the complete package to IANSYST in unmarked condition with proof of purchase. You will be asked to sign a declaration that you have not kept any copies of the program, and your purchase price will be refunded with good grace.

Some retailers and distributors may give you a similar warranty, in which case you should return the software to your supplier.

Disclaimer

Although we insist on the highest standards, it is impossible to test that computer software works perfectly in *all* conditions. It is therefore a condition of the licence that the purchaser, and any licensed user, agrees to ensure that use of the program could never result in damage of greater value than the cost of the program itself.

If you have more than one version of IANKEY

All versions of IANKEY (e.g. IANKEY Crash Course and IANKEY "Two Fingers") use the same file names. So if you copy them on to the same disk, one will overwrite the other. You must, therefore, keep the different programs on different disks, (or on different sides of the same CF2 disk).

READ.ME files and listing the directory

There may be a file of last-minute notes, perhaps relating to your particular computer, on the Master disk. If so, it will be called READ.ME.

To see if there is one, load your operating system (as on the instructions for how to copy a disk). When the computer shows you the A> prompt, put your IANKEY disk in the drive and type:

A>dir ⏎

This will give you a directory of all the files on the disk. If you see READ.ME, you can read it on the screen by typing:

A>type read.me ⏎

The master disk may have two versions of the program on the disk: if so one side is for the PCW 8256/8512/9512 and the other is for the CPC 6128. Check which side round the master disk should go by looking at the file directory using DIR. One file is called either CPC6128.DAT or PCW8256.DAT, depending on which computer you have.

If you are an experienced computer user...

- Load CP/M Plus from your own disk. Copy the files from the Master disk on to your own blank disk.

- Type I ⏎ (on the PCW 8256, 8512 or 9512) or submit go128 ⏎ (on the CPC 6128) to run the program.

- In future you must always load CP/M Plus from your own disk before running IANKEY.

If you are not an experienced computer user...

Follow closely the instructions for your computer which follow.

- Before you do anything else, you should make your own working copy of the Master IANKEY disk. *Never* use the original IANKEY disk except to take a working copy of it: then use the working copy and put the original somewhere safe (in case your working disk gets damaged and you need to make another copy).

- It is wise to make sure that your distribution disk is *write-protected*: this means nothing on it can be accidentally deleted or overwritten. Move the write-protect tab on the end so that you can see through the disk. Your *working* disk must *not* be write-protected.

PCW 8256 and 8512

How to format and copy your disk

● Switch on the computer and put your CP/M Plus disk in the drive with the label facing to the left; make sure the disk clicks home.

● The computer should then load CP/M and show you the A> prompt. Now type...

    A>disckit ⏎

● The computer will show you a menu. Take out your CP/M Plus disk (press the button to release the disk) and put it to one side.

● Press the f5 key (not the '5' key but the fifth function key on the right of the keyboard) to COPY a disk.

● Put the IANKEY Master disk in the drive.

● Press Y to go ahead with the copying.

● When the computer tells you, take out the Master disk and insert a new *blank* disk in the drive. Anything on this disk

will shortly be destroyed for ever! (You may need to swap the disks twice before your disk is completely copied if you are using a single-disk system.)

● When you have finished following the instructions, take out the disk; this is now your working copy of IANKEY. Label it appropriately on the correct side and put your Master disk away somewhere safe in case you ever need it again.

● Leave the DISCKIT program by pressing EXIT.

How to run IANKEY

● Put your new working disk in Drive A. The computer should be showing you the A> prompt. To start the program type...

    A>I ⏎

● In future, you must always start the computer with your own CP/M operating system disk before you can run IANKEY.

PCW 9512

How to format and copy your disk

The Amstrad 9512 uses high density disks, where the computer writes on both sides of the disk at the same time. Iansyst software is distributed on the original 8256 format low density disks, where only one side is written to at a time.

This means that you cannot use DISCKIT to copy your disk. Amstrad provide a program 8000COPY, which will enable you to copy your Iansyst master disk to a newly formatted, high capacity disk. It copies the files on to the RAM disk M, and then back on to your new disk.

● Switch on the computer and put your CP/M Plus disk in the drive with the label facing upwards; make sure the disk clicks home.

● The computer should then load CP/M and show you the A> prompt. Now type...

    A>disckit ⏎

● The computer will show you a menu. Take out your CP/M Plus disk (press the button to release the disk) and put it to one side.

● Press the f3 key (not the '3' key but the third function key on the right of the keyboard) to FORMAT a disk.

● Put a new *blank* disk in the drive with side A upwards. Anything on this disk will shortly be destroyed for ever!

● Press Y to go ahead with formatting.

● When the formatting is finished press EXIT to leave DISCKIT. Put your CP/M disk back in the drive and type...

    A>8000copy ⏎   (8000 with zeroes, not letters Os) the computer will give you instructions on when to insert your low density disk (the IANKEY Master) and your high density disk (your new working disk). You can make your IANKEY working disk into a "boot" (start-up) disk if you want.

● When you have finished following the instructions take out the new disk; this is now your working copy of IANKEY. Label it appropriately on the correct side and put your Master disk away somewhere safe in case you ever need it again.

How to run IANKEY

● Put your new working disk in Drive A. The computer should be showing you the A> prompt. To start the program type...

    A>I ⏎

● In future, you must always start the computer with your own CP/M operating system disk before you can run IANKEY.

ESCAPE/EXIT on the 8256/8512/9512

The EXIT key on the PCW8256/8512/9512 produces the code which is called ESCAPE on most computers. When you're told to press ESCAPE (by the Iankey *How-to Card*, for instance) you will usually get the right result by pressing EXIT.

● Note, too, that any references to the CONTROL key refer to the key called ALT on the 8256/8512/9512.

CPC 6128

How to format and copy your disk

● Start the computer. It will load BASIC automatically

● Then put your CP/M Plus system disk in Drive A (the drive built in to the computer). Insert the disk so that the label is facing up and so that it clicks home.

● Load and run CP/M. To do this, type...

   `|cpm ⏎`

(The '|' bar or vertical line character is on the right of the keyboard: hold down the SHIFT key as you press it).

● The computer should then load CP/M and show you the A> prompt. Now type...

   `A>disckit3 ⏎`

● The computer will show you a menu. Take out your CP/M Plus disk (press the button to release it) and put it aside.

● Press the f4 key (not the '4' key but the fourth function key on the right of the keyboard) to FORMAT a disk.

● Another menu appears: press f6 to format the disk for data.

● If necessary, press the appropriate function key to select drive A to use for formatting your disk.

● Put a new *blank* disk in the drive with side A upwards. Anything on this disk will shortly be destroyed for ever!

● Press Y to go ahead with formatting.

● When the computer says it has finished take the disk out and press any key.

● Follow the instructions again if you want to format another disk, or if you want to format the other side of the disk.

(Don't forget that the other side is like a totally separate disk when you turn it over.)

● When you have finished formatting disks press N to go back to the menu.

● Now press the function key f7 to copy the disk.

● If necessary, continue pressing the appropriate function key to choose which disk to copy from and to copy to.

● Press Y to go ahead with copying.

● When the computer asks for the disk to *read*, insert the IANKEY Master disk.

● When the computer tells you, take out the Master disk and insert the newly formatted disk: now press any key. (You may need to swap the disks three times before your disk is completely copied if you are using a single-disk system.)

● Take out the disk; this is now your working copy of IANKEY, so put your Master disk away somewhere safe in case you ever need it again.

● Choose the menu option to exit from the DISCKIT3 program.

How to run IANKEY

● Put your new working disk in Drive A. The computer should be showing you the A> prompt. To start the program type...

   `A>submit go128 ⏎`

● In future, you must always start the computer with your own CPM operating system disk before you can run IANKEY.

ESCAPE on the CPC6128

The ESCAPE key needs defining on the CPC6128 before it will work with the **IANKEY** programs. The submit file provided on the disk will do this automatically if you start the program by typing:
   `A>submit go128 ⏎`
You may be interested to know that you can effectively 'press ESCAPE' without a properly-defined ESCAPE key by holding down the CONTROL key and pressing '[', the left square bracket.

Some general notes

Loading CP/M

CP/M is the 'Control Program for Microcomputers' which **IANKEY** and other software uses to control the computer; CP/M Plus is a special up-to-date version of it.

IANKEY is a large program, and there is no room for CP/M itself on the **IANKEY** disk (except on the 9512). So you must *always* load CP/M from your own disk before running **IANKEY**. If your computer shows you the A> prompt, it means CP/M is ready. Except on the 9512, you could copy CP/M on to the other side of your **IANKEY** working disk.

Full disk

If you have a lot of different people using a small capacity disk, or if you use the I E option to record everything that you type, you may fill up a disk. You can either make another copy of your master, or you can erase unwanted files. To erase files use the DIR program to see which files you have. Any file called YOURNAME.REC (where YOURNAME is the name that somebody has given the program) or YOURNAME.E1-8 can be erased if you do not want it any more. To erase the file IAN.REC, for example, you type:
   `A>era ian.rec ⏎`

Day-to-day use of IANKEY

All the information that you need for running **IANKEY** is on the *How-to-Card*. One of these should be available at every terminal where the program is being used.

Write-Protect and Dual Disk Drives

You must have one disk which is not write-protected to hold your record when you run the program. **So if you have only *one* disk drive, you cannot write-protect the IANKEY working disk.** If you have *two* disk drives, you could write-protect your working program disk by adjusting the protect tab so that you can see through the disk, if you keep your record on the other drive. **On the 9512, if you use a disk in drive B: you must format it in drive B:. You cannot format a disk in drive A: and write to it in drive B:** — the drives are different. Sometimes write protecting disks can cause problems, so if in doubt do not write-protect your working disks. **You cannot write-protect your disk if you are running the program through a** SUBMIT **file**, e.g. on the 6128: SUBMIT needs to write a temporary file to the disk.

Recording everything that you type

You can record all the exercises that you type during the program if you start the program by typing I E ↵ instead of just I ↵. The results will take up quite a lot of space on the disk, so you may run out of room if you only have a single disk drive. **IANKEY** *always keeps a summary of your results, even without the* E *option*.

You can look at your results by TYPEing the resulting files (e.g. A>type yourname.e1 ↵) or by using a CP/M word-processor (but *not* LocoScript on the PCWs, as this does not use the CP/M "ASCII" format). See the *How-To-Card*.

On the **CPC 6128** you should run the SETKEYS program before you start with I E, just as the SUBMIT GO128 program does.

Problems

The **IANKEY** programs have been carefully designed to be easy to use, even for computer novices. Please follow the instructions carefully — and remember that computers are very silly: if you type a single letter wrongly when issuing a command to the computer, it will not understand.

If you have difficulty following the instructions, read them again. If you still have problems the best idea is to get a friend who is used to computers to come and help you get started. What now seems complicated will soon appear very obvious.

It is very costly to develop and market a program like **IANKEY**. So when we charge a special low price, as we do on Amstrad versions of our software, this leaves *no room at all* for us to give you individual help — except of course to get our software running properly under all reasonable circumstances. We cannot freely answer questions about how to use your computer, or how to connect up printers, or how to use the software with non-standard hardware.

Some solutions...

All these problems happen very rarely, but if one of them happens to you, read on...

"I cannot make a copy of the IANKEY master disk."

● If when it is reading the **IANKEY** disk the computer gives you an error message saying that it cannot read a certain track and sector, then it is probable that the disk is faulty. Send just the disk alone back to us, adequately packaged, and we will replace it free of charge.

"I put my IANKEY working disk into the drive and nothing happens."

● You must always start the computer up by putting an operating system disk ("boot" or "start-up" disk) in the drive. Only when the computer shows you the A> prompt is it ready for you to start up **IANKEY**.

"The computer gives me a message saying 'EXTENDED ERROR' after I have entered my name."

● The program is trying to write to your personal record. If the disk is *write-protected* or if it is *full* the program will not be able to do so. Check that the write-protect tab is obscuring the hole in the disk. If the disk is full, then erase some files as explained in "Full disk" above, or start a new disk.

"The computer seems to go mad, or 'locks up' when I run the program."

● If the program seems to go haywire, or if it refuses to respond to the keyboard, *first* check that the keyboard is properly plugged in! If it still does not work, then there is probably a corrupted file on your working **IANKEY** disk. Try making another copy of the disk from your **IANKEY** master. If this still does not work — and *only* if — try running the program from your un-write-protected master disk. If you still have the problem then your master disk is probably faulty. Return it to us for replacement.

When all else fails...

If you are thinking of returning the software because you cannot get it to run and there is no answer above, try following the instructions carefully once more. Then phone our support hot-line (as on the *How-to- Card*) to see if it is a problem that we can solve, preferably whilst your computer is running. If you must write to us about a problem, we can respond much more quickly if you tell us which program and which computer you are using, describe *exactly* where the problem comes and give us a daytime or early evening phone number.

Improvements

We welcome suggestions as to how we can improve our products — and that includes the instructions for using them. Each year we refund the purchase price of one of each of our products to one of the people who have sent suggestions about that product. It could be you!